

REMARKS

The Examiner issued a restriction requirement between groups I, II, III, IV, V, VI and VII. The applicant hereby affirms election of claims 1-31 and 45 (Group I), without traverse.

The Examiner rejected to the abstract. The applicant has revised the abstract to reflect the elected claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 and 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jensen. The Examiner rejected claims 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cohn. The claims of the above-entitled application recite a blade assembly for a microkeratome. The Jensen and Cohn references merely disclose surgeons scalpels. The applicant has amended the blade holders to include a recess that receives a pin in the microkeratome. The pin and recess allow the microkeratome to move the blade in an automated manner. Neither Jensen or Simon disclose a blade holder with a recess that receives a pin of a microkeratome. For this reason the applicant submits that these references do not anticipate claims 1-31.

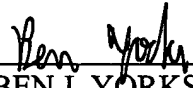
The Examiner rejected claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Simon. Claim 45 now recites an opening that extends through the thickness of the blade. The opening 18 of Cohn does not extend through the blade. For this reason the applicant submits that Cohn does not anticipate claim 45.

In view of the above it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the objections and rejections are requested. Allowance of claims 1-31 and 45 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
IRELL & MANELLA, LLP

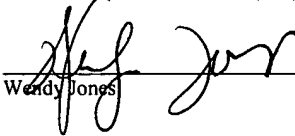
Dated: February 27, 2003


BEN J. YORKS
Reg. No. 33,609

840 Newport Center Drive, Suite 400
Newport Beach, CA 92660
949-760-0991

Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile transmission to Attn: Examiner Victor Nguyen, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No.: (703) 306-3590 on February 27, 2003.

 2/27/03
Wendy Jones Date

APPENDIX A

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 17, 21, 24, 27, 29, 31 and 45 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome[medical device] used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade to define a cutting depth, said blade holder having a color that corresponds to said cutting depth of said blade, siad blade holder having a recess that receives the pin.

4. (Amended) The blade assembly of claim 1, wherein said blade holder includes [a recess and] a plurality of cavities.

7. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome[medical device] used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade to define a cutting depth, said blade holder having indicator means for providing an indication of said cutting depth of said blade, said blade holder having a recess that receives the pin.

10. (Amended) The blade assembly of claim 7, wherein said blade holder includes [a recess and] a plurality of cavities.

13. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome[medical device] used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade, said blade having a recess that receives the pin and a plurality of cavities.

17. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome[medical device] used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade, said blade holder having a recess that receives the pin and cavity means.

21. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome[medical device] used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge;

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade, said blade having a recess that received the pin and a hole; and,

a bonding agent that attaches said blade holder to said blade.

24. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome[medical device] used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade, said blade holder having a recess that receives the pin and bonding access means; and,

bonding means for bonding said blade holder to said blade.

27. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome[medical device] used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade, said blade having a front surface that includes a raised surface, said blade holder having a recess that receives the pin.

31. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome[medical device] used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising:

a blade that has a cutting edge, a rear edge, and a pair of side edges that extend between said cutting edge and said rear edge; and,

a blade holder that is coupled to said blade such that said blade holder extends from said rear edge of said blade, said blade holder having a recess that receives the pin.

45. (Amended) A blade assembly that can be assembled into a microkeratome[medical device] used to cut a cornea, the microkeratome including a pin, comprising;

a blade holder having a front surface and a recess that receives the pin; and

a blade attached to said blade holder, said blade having a pair of side edges, a cutting edge, a rear edge and an opening that extends through a thickness of said blade and is located between said cutting edge and said front surface between said side edges.